

Week of May 19, 2003: Maine DOT Flash Facts

Topic-Emergency Related Safety Tips

Monday:

Opener: Are road shoulders a safe place to work on your car or wait for help? Find out more after the break.

Flash Facts

Road shoulders are not a safe place to stop for help. Fatalities result every year due to people waiting on the shoulder. Here are some tips from the Maine DOT if you need to get your vehicle off the road:

- Get completely off the road, and as far away from traffic as possible.
- Turn on your emergency flashers.
- Get vehicle occupants to a safe location
- Call 911 for help.
- Watch out for traffic.

Be a Road Model: be safe when waiting for help.

Wednesday:

Opener: Memorial Day is one of the heaviest traffic days of the year. The Maine DOT offers some safety tips for you and your car.

Flash Facts:

Memorial Day weekend means many more people are on the road. This increase in traffic means you should be more cautious. The Maine DOT would like to remind you to:

- Allow extra time. With all the traffic on the road, be prepared for delays.
- Pay attention at all times. Try to not be distracted with food, music, cell phones or passengers. With this increase in traffic, it is essential to fully concentrate on driving.
- Don't forget to wear your seatbelt. Not only is it illegal to not wear a seatbelt, it could cost you your life.

Be a Road Model: drive safely and smartly.

Friday:

Opener: You probably know that Memorial Day means lots of traffic, but do you know how many crashes occur as a result of this traffic? Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

Over the past five years, over 2000 crashes occurred in Maine on Memorial Day weekend alone. The Maine DOT has some helpful suggestions on how to make this Memorial Day a safer one:

- Plan your trip ahead of time and check the MaineDOT web site for road conditions at www.511Maine.com
- Make sure your car is in good condition by checking fluid levels and tire pressure.
- Be fully rested before your journey begins.
- Pack safely. Make sure your visibility is not impaired.
- Expect delays on the road. Don't let delays stress you.

Be a Road Model: Drive safely this Memorial Day.